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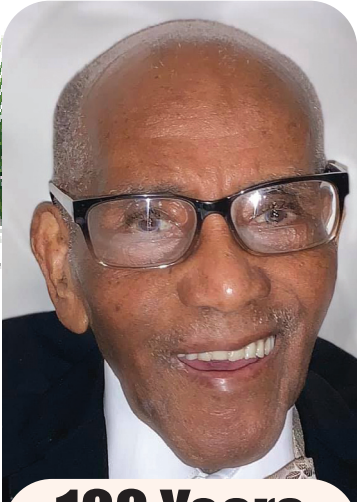
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**100 Years
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Page 4

**Eight elected
to the Global
Jamaica
Diaspora
Council**
Page 5



Special Feature
Page 8-9



Toni-Ann Singh, 23
Miss World 2019

Miss Jamaica Wins Miss World 2019

See Page 7

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EDITORIAL

When Christmas isn't Christmas anymore

The Christmas season is an annually recurring period recognized in many western influenced countries. It is also a time where retailers increase their advertisement on sales of goods and services, and as such, you will see Christmas window displays and Christmas tree lighting ceremonies.

According to research, in the denominations of Western Christianity, the economic impact involving the anticipatory lead-up to Christmas Day grew in America and Europe into the 19th and 20th centuries.

The term "Christmas season" began to become synonymous instead with the traditional Christian Advent season, the period observed in Western



Christianity from the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day until Christmas Day itself. The term "Advent calendar" continues to be widely known in Western parlance as a term referring to a countdown to Christmas Day from the beginning of December.

The Advent season is the time where Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and anticipate Jesus's arrival back in the world. In this season, the church's seats would usually be packed with people who are curious about the stories of Jesus and expecting to see the depiction of the Birth of Jesus through plays.

However, another side of the Christmas season is where families and friends

would anticipate giving and receiving of gifts, having holiday parties and sending invitations for dinners and other gatherings.

Not to mention, how euphoric the atmosphere is typically. I often observe how kind and warm people are around this season. For example, strangers helping strangers, people volunteering their time and energy to help the less fortunate.

However, Christmas isn't Christmas anymore. Depending on where you are in the world, Christmas is more commercialized and less about the Birth of Jesus.

People are slowly losing skills when it comes on to social relationships. Therefore, fewer families are coming together around this time.

Church benches are empty as more church services are being offered virtually, which does not necessarily encourage in-person attendance.

People are more connected via social media than in real life and as such, the breaking down of all the structures that used to bind us together.

Let's remember what this season is about. Now is the time to connect with our loved ones and friends. Ignite the flame of helping others. Love is the reason for the season.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

The opinions expressed in this newspaper, except for the above, do not necessarily reflect the views of Street Hype Newspaper and its publishers. Please send your comments and or suggestions to editor@streethypenewspaper.com. Responses should be no longer than 400 words. Not all articles will be published.

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Jamaican national elected treasurer of Consular Corps Association in Philadelphia

News Americas, PHILADELPHIA:

Jamaica's Honorary Consul in Philadelphia, Christopher Chaplin, is now the treasurer and a member of the Executive Committee of the Consular Corps Association of Philadelphia. He was elected at its meeting on December 11, 2019 in Philadelphia.

Chaplin takes over from Jerry Sorkin, Honorary Consul for Tunisia, who served the Association with distinction. Commenting on his election to the position, Mr. Chaplin said, "Jerry's shoes will be hard to fill but I am confident that my banking experience will enable me to perform well in the role. I look forward to working with my consular colleagues on the many exciting projects that our association is involved in."

At the election, Peter Longstreth, Honorary Consul for Uruguay in Philadelphia was returned as President and Ms. Susan Satkowski, Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Norway was returned as Secretary. Miguel Alban, Honorary Consul of Peru, was elected Vice President.

Chaplin is a career banker and has worked at financial institutions in both Jamaica and the United States. He was appointed Jamaica's Honorary Consul in Philadelphia by Jamaica's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator Kamina Johnson Smith in April of 2019.

About The Consular Corps
Association of Philadelphia

The Consular Corps Association of Philadelphia (CCAP) is the oldest consular organization in the United States and its members represent 63 countries around the world.

As a 501(c)(3), non-profit corporation, CCAP is governed by a four-member Executive Committee elected each year by its Members and is funded by dues, contributions and sponsorships. Like any association, CCAP's fundamen-



Christopher-Chaplin
Jamaica's Honorary Consul
in Philadelphia

tal responsibility is to assist its members in maximizing their individual effectiveness. More specific objectives include:

Improving CCAP Members' access to Philadelphia's business, non-profit and political leadership.

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Providing Philadelphia with a window on the diplomatic world – in Washington, D.C. and abroad.

Partnering with selected cultural, educational and charitable organizations which contribute to Philadelphia's international agenda.



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NEWS



Arnold Lloyd Shaw, 100

Arnold Lloyd Shaw, 100 years not out

Jamaican born Bronx resident Arnold Lloyd Shaw celebrates his 100th birthday on December 1, 2019, at the Eastwood Manor, The Bronx. Scores of family members and friends acknowledged the centenarian for his outstanding services, inspired guidance and dedication to his family and community. Daughter Alma Campbell described Shaw as an “excellent and blessed father to many.”

Mother accused of killing her newborn gets case dismissed

PASSAIC

Following a decade-long legal battle, charges against a woman accused of killing her newborn child after giving birth in the bathroom of her Wayne home have been dismissed after court rulings deemed key evidence in the case inadmissible, the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office.

Keri J. Barry, now 31, was charged with murder and endangering the welfare of a child after authorities said she gave birth to a full-term baby boy in December 2009 and then placed him in a plastic bag, which she left on the bathroom floor.

A judge ruled police lacked a search warrant when the infant's body was recovered. An appellate court upheld that decision

earlier this year. “Without the use of the evidence deemed inadmissible...the State cannot sustain its burden of proof with respect to each element of each offense, thus a dismissal is required,” the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office said in a news release.

“The Supreme Court denied the State's final motion for leave to appeal on December 2, 2019, exhausting the State's avenues for appeal.” Barry's attorney, John J. Bruno Jr., said his client, now a mother of two children, is “elated” with the case's dismissal.

“This is the greatest Christmas gift she could have ever received. She is elated this cloud hanging over her head has been removed permanently,” Bruno Jr. said.

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NEWS

Eight elected to the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council

By Kimmy Blair
Street Hype Writer

Members of the Jamaican diaspora community in North America and the United Kingdom (UK) were on December 15, 2019 elected to serve on the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council (GJDC) for a three-year period.

Dr. Karren Dunkley, US Northeast; Dr. Allan Cunningham, US Southern; Shauna Chin, West/Midwest; Dr. Allan Cunningham, US Southern; Dr. Kevin Brown, UK North; Nathaniel Peat, UK South; Nailah Gordon-Decicio, Canada 1 and Yvette Blackburn, Canada II were winners in the respective areas.

Having had the endorsement of the 8th Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference in June 2019, the election process provides a transparent, orderly and fair method to allow eligible individuals within the Jamaican Diaspora to offer themselves for service.

The election process were implemented in the three countries which have the largest Jamaican Diaspora populations, namely: Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, referred to as the established Diaspora locations. As other Jamaica Diaspora populations in other regions of the world become more organized they will also be able to conduct elections.



Dr. Karren Dunkley



Shauna Chin



Dr. Kevin Brown



Dr. Allan Cunningham



Nathaniel Peat



Nailah Gordon-Decicio



Yvette Blackburn

To become a member of the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council an individual may be elected by the Diaspora in each established Diaspora region and subsequently will be issued a letter of confirmation by the Minister with responsibility for Diaspora Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.

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Illegal immigrants get NY driver's licenses

NEW YORK CITY:

Illegal immigrants in New York will be able to obtain driver's licenses starting next week after a last-minute legal challenge was dismissed -- making it the 13th state to allow the practice, but one that critics say is unconstitutional.

The Green Light Law, signed by Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo earlier this year, allows anyone to apply for a driver's license regardless of immigration status and does not require a Social Security number.

Illegal immigrants can use a combination of documents that include a valid passport from a foreign country and a valid foreign driver's license, as long as it has been

expired for less than two years.

"After waiting 18 years to have their right to drive restored, thanks to our legislature, New York can now officially join 12 other states in making driver's licenses legally available to all residents," New York Immigration Coalition Executive Director Steve Choi said in a statement this week, arguing that it will make roads safer and the economy stronger.

"This is a major step forward for all New Yorkers as we keep building New York to live up to its full potential of equity, opportunity and justice," said State Sen. Luis Sepúlveda (D-Bronx).

LEGAL NEWS

Marriage Immigration Fraud

What is a stokes interview?



Maurice D. Maitland, Esq.

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The Stokes marriage immigration fraud interview is for couples where one is a United States citizen and the other is a foreign national where he or she is attempting to immigrate through marriage. The Stokes interview is necessary to determine if the marriage is a sham or if the relationship satisfies all necessary requirements for the visa.

If the immigration officer does deem that the requirements are not met, he or she may place certain forms in a file with a recommendation for criminal charges, deportation or other penalties. An applicant for permanent residence in the United States.

Honesty in the Interview

Process: Many spouses will get caught in lies when progressing through the Stokes interview, and this can lead to possible consequences. It is best to remain honest with all parties to include the lawyer, spouse and self during this process. It is crucial to not misrepresent the facts, to ensure that all forms have accurate information and that the truth is present in all aspects of the interview. If any misrepresentation does appear during this interview, the officer may consider the marriage a sham and start the penalization procedure. During the next interview, it is often extremely difficult to overcome the assessment of the former officer.

The Necessary Preparations: For all Stokes interviews, the couple must ensure both parties are entirely prepared. This may require retrieving all required documentation to prove that the marriage is legitimate before the interview occurs. This meeting may also require the prepared consultation of an immigration lawyer to know what to say and how to avoid certain mistakes many couples make. When facing the I-485 or Stokes interview, preparation can assist both spouses in saying the needed information and not giving anything else away or providing false details about the situation. The immigration lawyer may also have some tips to follow.

Avoiding Misrepresentation: One of the vital factors when facing immigration authorities is to ensure there is no misrepresentation of the facts at any time. This can and often does lead to severe penalties to include criminal prosecution. The couple must ensure all information and details spoken or written are free from false, inaccurate or misrepresented data. If the specific question is regarding something one or both parties are unsure of, it is better to explain this rather than say something that could contain false info. Anything that is unknown should remain stated as unknown.

Honesty is crucial as well as promoting the moral character to the officer.

Remain Confident in the Interview: It is important to project confidence during the interview. There is no reason to become nervous, the because the interviewer is just asking about the relationship. If the officer does view shifting body language, nervous behavior or uncomfortable activity with one or both of the spouses, he or she may believe that lies or deception is present. Confidence helps to believe what the two are saying. This also requires eye contact, a steady stream of words without shaky breath and confident answers that are not unclear. This may also require polite, courteous and engaging behavior with appropriate answers.

Understanding What Rights Exist: No matter how the interview proceeds, it is important that the spouses are aware of what rights still exist. The officers that interview the couple can make mistakes and are still human. If the marriage is real or one of convenience with all requirements satisfied, then there is nothing wrong. It is important to refrain from panicking. The officers may use intimidation tactics to try to uncover all fraudulent marriages that place undue pressure on the couple. It is crucial to stay calm, project confidence and answer all questions to the best of each spouse's ability.


Legal Support for the Stokes Marriage Interview: When the couple is to proceed through a Stokes marriage interview, it is often important to contact an immigration lawyer beforehand. However, if any problems arise after the interview, a lawyer is crucial. He or she will explain what rights exist and what to do next.





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ENTERTAINMENT

Jamaican Toni-Ann Singh crowned Miss World 2019

By Kimmy Blair
Street Hype Writer

Miss Jamaica Toni-Ann Singh, 23 has been crowned Miss World 2019 at the 39th edition of the pageant held in London on December 14.

Toni-Ann Singh was among a group of 114 contestants vying for the Miss World pageant, one of the world's oldest beauty pageant.

She joined an elite group of Jamaican women who've won the crown over the years, including Lisa Hanna, who won in 1993, Cindy Breakspeare in 1976, and Carole Joan Crawford in 1963.

Singh, who is studying Women's Studies and Psychology at Florida State University, was crowned by Miss World 2018, Vanessa Ponce of Mexico.

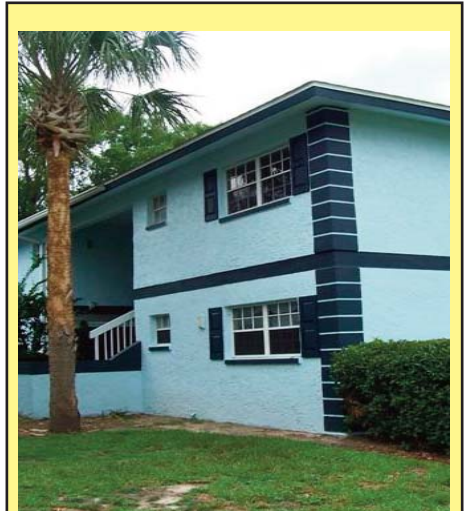
During the competition, Tonia spoke with confidence when she was asked why she should win the crown. "I represent something special, a generation of women that are pushing forward to change the world. I wouldn't say I'm different from any other woman on this stage, but I will say that my passion for women and pouring into them and making sure that they have the same opportunities that I've had is something that sets me apart," she said.

Asked about the most inspiring woman in his life, Singh said it is her mother. "The most inspiring woman to me is my mother. If my mother and father are the roots, and I am the tree, then really any work that I do and anything that I can change in the world is the fruits of their labor. I have watched her pour everything into me even at the sacrifice of her wants and needs, and that is why I can sit for you today," she said.

Singh had an impressive run after emerging among the hot favourite to win the crown. After winning the talent competition. She performed an impressive choreograph to Koffee's "Toast" and a live rendition of Whitney Houston's "I Have Nothing."



Toni-Ann Singh, 23
Miss World 2019



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Top travel agents recognized by Jamaica Tourist Board:

Jamaica's Director of Tourism, Donovan White (left) and Jamaica's Minister of Tourism, Edmund Bartlett (4th right) pose with 2019 top booker Lindsey Johnson. Others sharing the occasion (L-R): JTB's Business Development Officer, Sean Pierre-Webster; Miss Universe Jamaica Iana Tickle Garcia; Scott Johnson, Lindsey's husband and Deputy Directors of Tourism, Camile Glenister & Donnie Dawson. JTB for the eighth consecutive year rewarded its top selling Jamaica Travel Specialists with a three-night getaway at Hyatt Ziva. The getaway which included tours, world-class dining and shopping, culminated with the "One Love Affair" gala held at Half Moon Conference Centre, Montego Bay, Jamaica.



Christmas Treat and Tree lighting

Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. at the annual Christmas treat holding baby from a community member. Diaz Jr. also sponsored the borough's annual Christmas Tree Lighting, complete with Christmas carols, Santa and Mrs. Claus and treats outside of the Bronx County Building at 851 Grand Concourse, at the corner of East 161st Street, on Thursday, December 6.



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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



by **Alston Wilson**
Consul General of Jamaica

My fellow Jamaicans in the Diaspora, Christmas is that special time of year when Jamaicans at home and abroad make a special effort to spread joy and cheer to friends and family in our uniquely traditional way. There is no equivalent to our traditional Christmas dinner, Christmas cake, festivities, reggae-inspired Christmas carols, Grand Market and dressing up in our 'Sunday best' for Church.

There is nothing comparable to the warmth of our people and spirit of Jamaica Land we Love. So, this season, and on into the New Year, let us celebrate each other and keep building a brighter future for ourselves and our children.

As 2020 draws near, may this Christmas help us to rediscover the bonds that

keep us together and strengthen us as a people in our quest to achieve both our individual and national goals. May the season inspire us to continue our journey towards realizing our true potential as a nation.

Let us be truly thankful and encouraged by the most recent successes of Mrs. Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, who was crowned the Best Female Athlete at the inaugural Pan American (Pan Am) Sports Awards and Miss Toni-Ann Singh who was crowned Miss World at the prestigious Miss World 2019 competition. We continue to excel in many fields of endeavor and rejoice in these abundant blessings.

During this miraculous season, may your homes be filled with love, peace, and happiness. May your hearts be filled with contentment and the unique feeling of joy that the season brings. It is my hope that this glorious message will fill you with good cheer as we celebrate the birth of Christ, and rejoice in all the Blessings that have come our way over the past year.

As Jamaicans and as Christians, we recognize that love, joy and peace are the ingredients for a wonderful Christmas. I hope you find them all this festive season. Let us continue to demonstrate the true meaning of our Jamaican spirit by giving with love, being good neighbours, and good countrymen and women.

From my family to yours, I wish you happiness, health, love and peace this holiday season. I sincerely wish you wonderful memories and everything merry and bright during this joyous season.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

What is Christmas ?

By Rachel Dawson

Christmas is so full of wonder, meaning and tradition. But, where did all these things that we now call "Christmas" come from? Let's briefly sketch the origin and development of what we now celebrate as Christ's birth.

Christmas is the annual Christian festival celebrating Christ's birth, held on December 25 in the Western Church. The traditional date of December 25 goes back as far as A.D. 273. Two pagan festivals honoring the sun were also celebrated on that day and it is possible that December 25 was chosen to counteract the influence of paganism.

To this day some people feel uncomfortable with Christmas because they think it is somehow tainted by the pagan festivals held on that day. But Christians have long believed that the gospel not only transcends culture, it also transforms it.

There are two specific theories for why we use the date of December 25th for Christmas. First, people and religions of the day celebrated some sort of holiday around that time. December 25th was the Saturnalia Festival of emancipation, gift giving and the triumph of light after the longest night. The Christian sees the truth implicit in this pagan tradition that reflects: Christ the Light of the world, His triumph over the night of sin in Luke 1:78-79:

The second theory centers on the date "accepted" by the Western Church of March 25 as the Annunciation or Immac-



ulate Conception of Jesus in Mary's womb. December 25 is 9 months later and thus celebrated as the birthday of Jesus. Regardless of the possible reasons for the date, the church calendar was set in the West during Constantine's reign while the Eastern Church held onto the date of January 6 for some time.

The Christian Meaning behind Ancient Traditions: Evergreen Trees were the symbol of eternal life. Martin Luther introduced them to the Reformation Church as a picture of our endless life in Christ, by bringing in a tree to his family on Christmas Eve lit with candles (Isaiah 60:13).

Candles are a picture that Christ is the Light of the world (John 8). Holly speaks of the thorns in His crown (Matthew 27:29).

Red is a color of Christmas that speaks of Christ's blood and death.

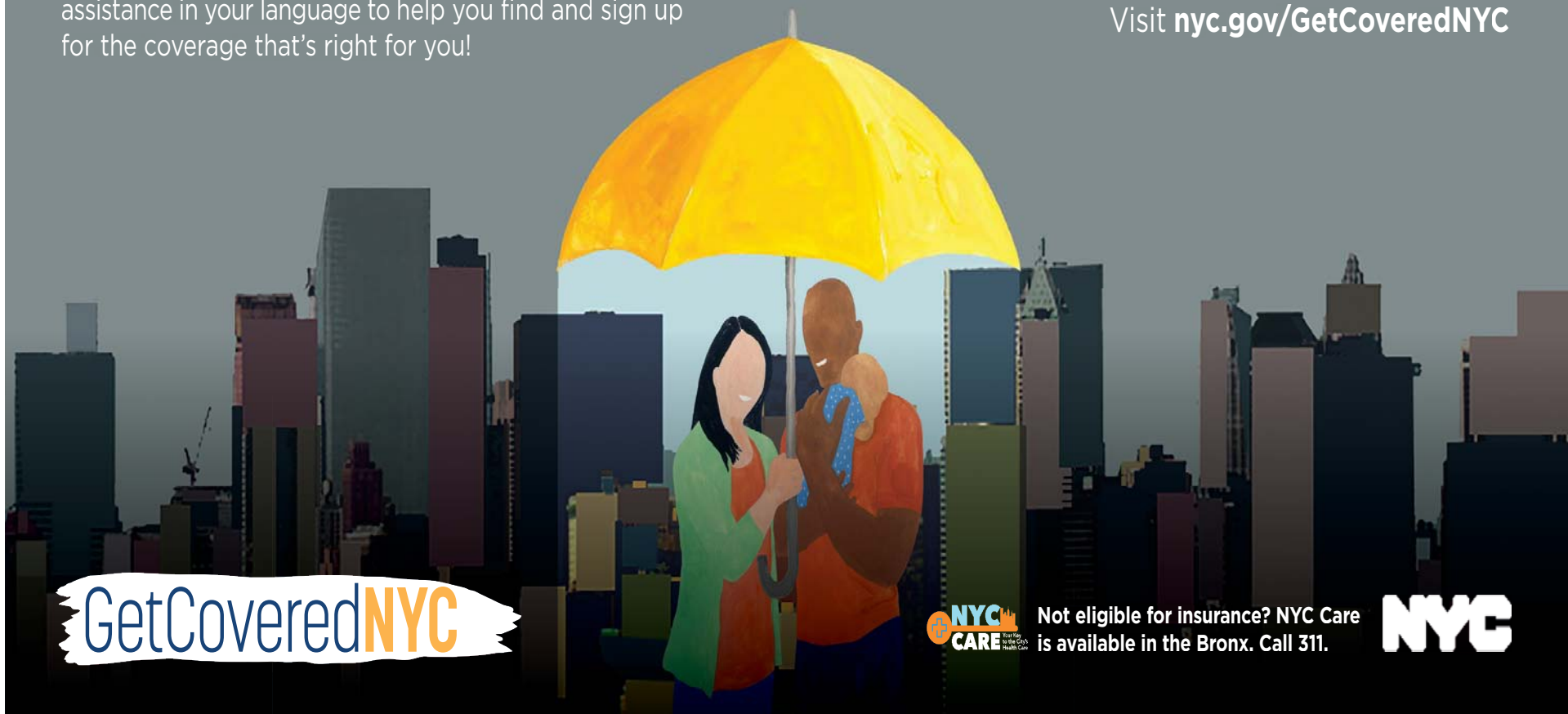
Gifts are a reminder of the gifts of the Magi to baby Jesus. Each of them speak to a component of His incarnation: Majesty in life, Bitterest Agony in Death and He as God's Perfect gift to us (Matthew 2).

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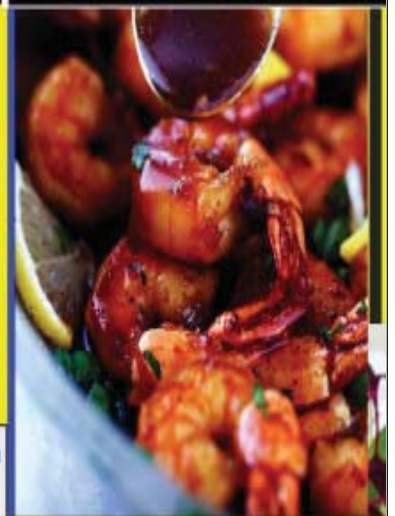


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SPORTS

Funds needed for Reggae Girlz assistant coach to step up

With just over a month to go before the CONCACAF leg of Olympic qualifiers, Lorne Donaldson, the man many thought would take over as Reggae Girlz head coach is adamant he will not take the job if outstanding salaries are not paid. The post of head coach became vacant after Hue Menzies, who guided the Reggae Girlz to the FIFA Women's World Cup in June, resigned.

With Donaldson being a member of the Reggae Girlz coaching staff for the last five years, it was felt he would be the likely successor to head the technical team. JFF president Michael Ricketts told the media an announcement would have been made about Menzies' replacement. However, Lorne Donaldson said on Wednesday, December 18th that there are conditions the JFF will have to meet before he considers taking over the program. Donaldson, who is on the island conducting a joint camp with the Under 20 and Under 17 Reggae Girlz, argued that the uncertainty will impact Jamaica's chances of advancing to the Olympic Games.

JFF president Michael Ricketts said that the federation is trying to source the funds to pay the coaches.

Cottrell among the most expensive players for IPL 2020

Jamaican pacer Sheldon Cottrell was among the six most expensive players at the morning's draft on December 19th for the 2020 edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Cottrell who is ranked among the top five wicket takers in One Day International (ODI) cricket in 2019, was picked up by the Kings XI Punjab for US \$1.2 million or JA \$160 million.

Guyanese Shimron Hetmyer also went for a substantial sum as he was drafted by the Dehli Capitals for US \$1.09 million. Number one test bowler Pat Cummins of Australia was the most expensive of the lot after being drafted at \$2.18 million by the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR).

Other Jamaicans drafted on Thursday were Chris Gayle for the Kings XI, Oshane Thomas for the Rajasthan Royals, and Fabian Allen for the Sunrisers Hyderabad. They join Andre Russell who was once again retained by KKR.

Sherfane Rutherford and Kieron Pollard with the Mumbai Indians, Keemo Paul with Dehli, Dwayne Bravo at Chennai Super Kings, Nicholas Pooran at King's XI and Sunil Narine at KKR, are the other West Indians in the IPL for 2020.



Jamaican sprinter voted female athlete of the year

Jamaica's Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce has been voted International Female Athlete for 2019 by readers of the Athletics Weekly Magazine, which is published in the United Kingdom.

The publication stated that "Fraser-Pryce was voted top in a year, which saw her win the world 100m title in a very fast world-leading 10.71 to just miss her seven-year-old PB. She also won gold in the 4x100m relay and ran 22.22 for 200m."

World 400m hurdles champion Dalilah Muhammad was the runner-up while Sifan Hassan, who took the unprecedented 10,000m and 1500m double at the World Championships was third.

The 32-year-old Fraser-Pryce became the first woman to win the 100 meters at four

World Championships when she turned back the challenge of a quality field at the 2019 edition inside the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, Qatar on September 29.

Fraser-Pryce clocked a fast 10.71 seconds, putting some serious distance between her and the rest of the field. With the victory in Qatar, Fraser-Pryce won her first global medal as a mother; she gave birth to her son, Zyon, two years ago.

The double Olympic 100m champion also won the 200m at the Pan American Games in Lima, Peru on August 9. She broke the 40-year-old Pan Am Games 200 meters record by clocking 22.43 seconds for the victory.

Jamaican footballers arrested for shoplifting in the US

Two Jamaicans who participated in the Caribbean American Soccer Classic Football Tournament over the weekend in Florida, USA, have been arrested for shoplifting.

It is understood that one of the players attends Jamaica College and represented the Jamaican All-Schools team. The athlete is a member of the Inter-secondary Schools Sports Association (ISSA) All-Schools Select team that won the football tournament in Florida. The other Jamaican actually attends high school in the United States and repre-

sented one of the other teams in the competition.

The Jamaican All-Schools team made up of Manning and DaCosta Cup players from across the country, thumped Kendall 6-1 to retain the Caribbean American Soccer Classic title.

Teary-eyed mugshots of the Jamaica College player appeared on social media, dating Sunday, December 15th, with charges of "petit theft — 2nd degree". He was arrested by Broward County officers in southeastern Florida.

Jamaica's Reggae Boyz top 50 in the World

Jamaica's senior national men's football team will end the calendar year in the top 50 in the world. The December edition of the FIFA world rankings which was released on Thursday, December 19th sees the Reggae Boyz ranked at 48th. Jamaica also remain fourth in CONCACAF.

The Reggae Boyz will need to maintain a top six position in the region for another six months in order to be placed in the hexagonal round of the 2022 World Cup Qualifiers. Jamaica ended 2019 with eight wins, three draws and three losses including a semi-final finish at the CONCACAF Gold Cup and booked promotion to League "A" of the Nations League.

They also secured qualification to the 2021 edition of the CONCACAF Gold Cup. The 2022 World Cup Qualifiers for the CONCACAF region will kick off on August 31 next year.

Simmons lifts challengers to impressive win

Chattogram, Bangladesh:

West Indies opener Lendl Simmons extended his run-scoring form with a half-century as he helped power Chattogram Challengers to a 16-run victory over Dhaka Platoon in the Bangladesh Premier League here Wednesday on December 18th.

In a contest at Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Challengers piled up an imposing 221 for four after being sent in, with Mahmudullah top-scoring with 59 from 28 deliveries and the right-handed Simmons contributing 57 from 36 deliveries.

Imrul Kayes chipped in with 40 from 24 balls as Challengers posted the highest total of the current campaign. It was Simmons who provided the early impetus, first putting on 51 off 28 balls for the first wicket with Avishka Fernando (26) before adding another 50 for the second wicket with Kayes.

All told, he smashed five fours and four sixes before perishing in the 11th over via the run out route. His half-century followed scores of 44 and 26 in previous matches, extending his decent form from the tour of India.

Following his dismissal, Mahmudullah belted five fours and four sixes in a 62-run stand with Kayes before West Indies batsman Chadwick Walton hit an 18-ball 27 to give the innings a flourish at the end.

NEW JERSEY NEWS

Undocumented immigrants in New Jersey can get Driver's Licenses

NEW JERSEY

Immigrants in New Jersey without formal legal status will be allowed to get state driver's licenses after Gov. Phil Murphy signed a bill to do that on Thursday, December 19th capping years of pressure from activists and supporters.

The bill signing came three days after the Assembly and Senate, both controlled by Democrats, passed the measure, which had been stalled despite months of demonstrations across the state. State of-

ficials have said they expect it will take at least a year before the actual licenses are issued.

Hundreds of immigrants, many who likely will benefit from the new law, cheered Murphy at Snyder Academy in Elizabeth, where nearly two years ago a coalition of organizations launched the Let's Drive NJ campaign that aimed to get support for the controversial measure.

"We should acknowledge that many immigrant residents are already behind

the wheel, and on our roads going to work and school or simply to the grocery store....you haven't been asking for special treatment, you have been asking us to acknowledge your reality."

Those who oppose the bill have said the measure prioritizes immigrants without legal status above everyone else. Among the concerns raised is the potential for voter fraud, and that the licenses would draw more undocumented immigrants to the state.

Proponents argue that extending driving privileges to immigrants without lawful status would increase public safety and bolster the state's economy, because those who would receive the licenses would buy car insurance, vehicles, and gasoline and auto parts.

Law enforcement officials made the argument that New Jersey would be safer for the new law. New Jersey became the 15th state along with Washington, D.C., to make driver's licenses available.

N.J. man wins \$5K a month for life with lottery ticket

Robert Butts, of Rahway, won \$1,060,000 with a lucky lottery scratch-off ticket. A New Jersey man who bought three, \$3 scratch-off lottery tickets wound up winning \$5,000 a month for life with one of them.

Butts bought the Win for Life Tickets at Rahway Mini Mart on West Grand Avenue in Rahway, scratched them off in the store immediately and hit the jackpot with the third ticket.

Butts told lottery officials his only immediate plan for the money was to purchase a new television. He expected to invest the rest after notifying his family.

Butts said he usually plays scratch-off games and only buys tickets for draw games when the prizes get very large.

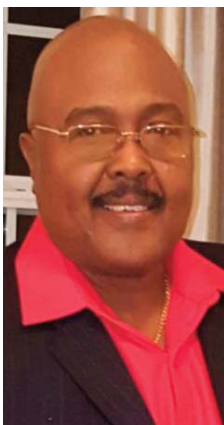
Though Butts purchased the tickets in mid-September and went to lottery headquarters shortly thereafter, officials announced his good fortune in a press release on Friday, December 20th.

Of the 11,858,200 Win for Life tickets printed, three are worth \$5,000 a month for life, according to lottery officials. Another top-prize winner was sold at Pied Piper Liquors on West Edgar Avenue in Linden. The third hasn't been claimed.

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18+

Don't open that Christmas party email

- it could be swarming with malware

By Mike Moore

Hackers are looking to kill off the Christmas spirit by hiding malware within fake office party emails. Research from security firm Cofense has uncovered evidence that cybercriminals behind the dangerous Emotet botnet are using holiday-themed phishing emails to trick victims.

Having first appeared around Halloween at the end of October, the company is now warning the same tactic is now being used to lure in workers excited for the holidays with fake emails concerning office Christmas parties.

Cofense discovered emails with titles such as "Christmas party next week" that appeared innocent, but came with a macro enabled Microsoft Word attachment disguised as menu options for a festive meal. The messages were often built around templates that came



from scrapped inboxes to leverage real email conversations, making them appear legitimate, even featuring translations for different markets.

Asking the user to "enable editing" to view, clicking on the attachment will

execute the embedded macros and install the Emotet malware, which could provide various groups with the means to attempt ransomware downloads, more spam and phishing emails.


Cofense says that despite the low-key

design is often a major giveaway to fake emails, especially the use of the outdated .doc Microsoft Word format, as well as a bare-bones design which should have helped it stand out.

However such emails still pose a very valid threat to businesses of all sizes, and should be used in order to help train and improve phishing detections programs across all industries.

"If your phishing defense program is aligned with active threats hitting organizations, then this is exactly the template you should be using to train your users to identify a real phish," Tonia Dudley from Cofense Security Solutions wrote in a blog post outlining the news.

Recent figures from Malwarebytes saw detections of Emotet soar 37 percent as cybercriminals look to target a wide range of businesses.



WE DID IT!

Today I emerged with majority votes for the Northeast (USA) seat on the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council. I am so humbled by this major vote of confidence from the Jamaican diaspora! It is an honor to be given this opportunity to contribute to improving the lives of our people at home and in the diaspora. Thank you so much to everyone who cast your vote in support of my candidacy. This is not just a victory for me but it's a victory for YOU. The promises made to you were Signed, Sealed and now they will be Delivered. A big THANK YOU again. Now let the work begin! One Love. One People. One Jamaica.

-DR. KARREN DUNKLEY

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RELATIONSHIP

In Love with Being in Love?

By Blog Authors

Despite the love stories plastered all over Hollywood movies or the sweet nothings dripping from Hallmark cards, the truth is that relationships aren't always so perfect. But before we dig into the heart of the matter, let's take a quick inventory.

Ask yourself the following questions: What is the longest period of time you have remained single?

Are the movies, books, music and TV shows you enjoy all centered on romance? Do you fear being alone?

Have you ever stayed with someone simply because you'd rather be with them than be alone?

Is your self-worth based on whether or not you are in a romantic relationship and how that person views you?

Take a look at your answers; you can probably begin to figure out whether or not you are addicted...to being in love.

What Love Addiction Looks Like?
Just like any other addiction, a cycle of relationship dependency can be hard to break. In the same way an alcoholic seeks solace in drinking, a love addict seeks out relationship after relationship, despite how unhealthy they may be, to try and fill a void.

Their motivation is often fear. Whether it's fear of being alone, emptiness, abandonment, not being enough or rejection, it's this



fear that keeps the cycle of relationship dependency churning.

Emotional abuse is often a factor in creating this cycle. When our sense of self is warped by repetitive words or actions that make us feel unworthy, we are more likely to become a dependent person that constantly seeks love to make us feel worthy and validated.

Breaking the Cycle

In order to break free from this addiction, we have to stop the dependency. We

have to find a way to deal with life in a manner that does not rely on validity or self-significance falsely sought through a relationship.

Here are six ways that you can break the cycle and begin your recovery process:

See it: Take a look at your behavior patterns and be honest about what you see. Review your relationships and admit if you are addicted to love or have developed a cycle of relationship dependency.

Stop it: Once you notice the pattern,

break it with a break. If you are not currently in a committed relationship, don't date anyone for the next six months. Don't use dating sites. Don't let friends hook you up. Don't send e-mails, texts, or phone calls that would potentially involve romantic connections.

Review it: Now that you aren't reviewing your dating profiles, looking for matches or going out on dates, take this extra time to reflect. Review the patterns you see in your relationships. Look for similarities with your childhood experiences. Gain insights into what may have shaped your behavior. Journal about it.

Counsel it: As you evaluate your experiences, consider seeking professional help. A counselor can provide additional insight and assist you with breaking this cycle of love addiction.

Picture it: Envision your life free of relationship dependency. What does it look like? How would you feel if you accepted yourself as whole without someone else? What would it be like if you were responsible for your own happiness and truly loved yourself?

Do it: Love yourself. Accept your imperfections. Don't seek someone else to fill those cracks. Move forward in your life with a new sense of acceptance and love that will stop you from spinning up the old cycle of relationship dependency.

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